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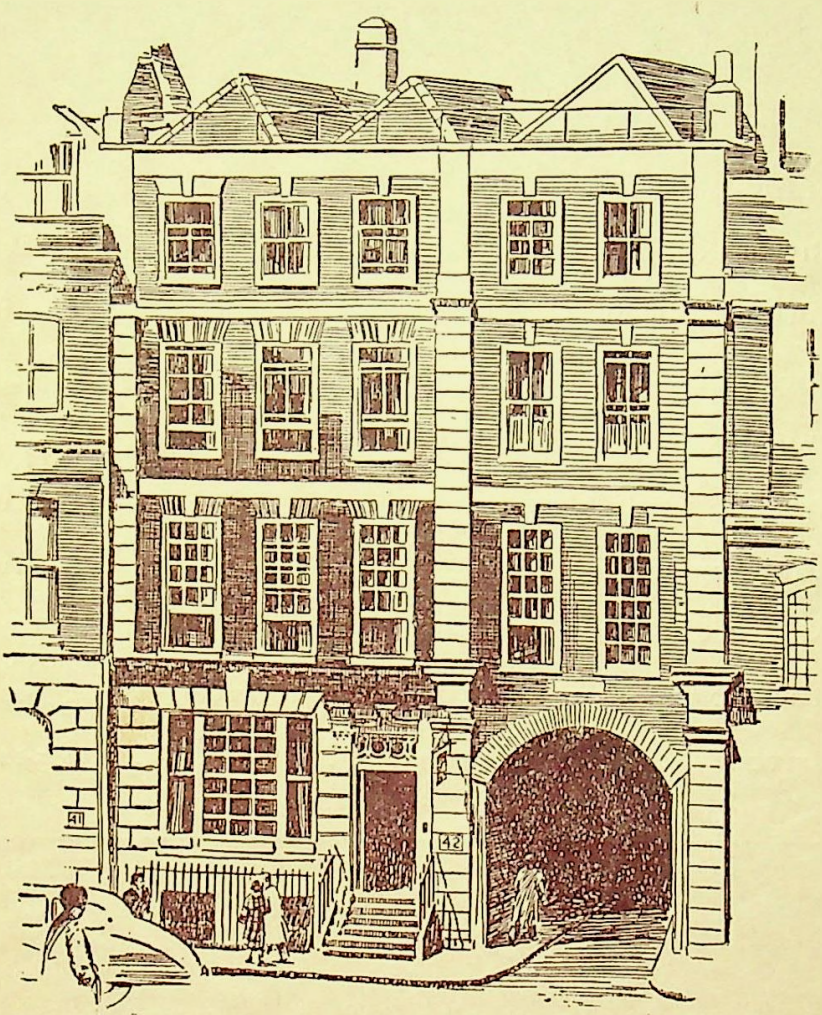
THE LOG

Toc H Women's Association



CRUTCHED FRIARS HOUSE. Headquarters of Toc H Women's Association

JULY-AUGUST, 1956 NINEPENCE

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THE LOG

VOL. XXX .·. NO. 4 JULY-AUGUST 1956

FOUR thousand women . . .

Some were tall, some were slim and some were plump; some were solemn, and some had laughing eyes; some had golden hair, some brown, some grey; some had charming hats (Ches, Editor of *Toc H Journal,* paid you compliments on those when I met him for a moment in one of the long corridors of the Royal Albert Hall!) . . . and among all the four thousand of you at the Toc H Women's Association Festival, I spotted no duplicate face.

All those I saw looked different from each other, *all* looked individual.

And this is one of the reasons, I notice, why Toc H makes a special appeal to many free minds: there is no uniform way of thinking and so no uniform face or expression grows out of it.

The next ten pages are a short record of that June week-end—a week-end which adds to the history of the Association memories of a Service on Tower Hill in the sun; of a pageant at the Royal Albert Hall; of a family gathering at Guildhall. . . .

And talking of history: two days before the Festival, Mr. W. G. West arrived with the first copies of A.B.S.M.'s book. In Crutched Friars he met Miss Coulson and here, in Couly's words, is what happened: "I was in on the arrival of The Book last night—just passing the door as Mr. West arrived, and so was, I presume, the first to have a copy, duly inscribed. I think it ought to go awfully well . . . the cover alone should arouse curiosity. . . ."

At the Festival, I watched Mac signing other copies. In the bus going home after the last goodbye at the family gathering at Guildhall, I sat behind two members. One had bought the book as a birthday gift for the other. It's an idea.

The idea might be adopted, too, in relation to the Log: a year's subscription as a birthday gift to someone who would really like to keep in touch with what is going on in the Association. That is the main purpose of the magazine: to keep the Family in live touch—and it ought to be a Log to *every* member who wants to know what's going on!

Editor: BARBARA VISE

The Challenger.
(Photo: F.48574)

FESTIVAL 1956 -

THE ELEVENTH FESTIVAL of Toc H Women's Association will be noteworthy because it made history in holding a great open-air Service of Witness on Tower Hill. We may be thankful that the Festival Committee had both courage and daring—many times the question was raised, "What do we do if it rains?", and during the eight or nine months of looking forward there was plenty of time for feet to get cold—but the risk was justified and Tower Hill was, on that Saturday afternoon, a brilliant setting for something new in its story.

HERE is Jane Welch to give us a vivid picture of the events of the afternoon:

One of the most moving Toc H services ever experienced by those who took part in it was that of the first Ascension Day of post-war years, when the family of Toc H met in the early morning under the open sky, to Break Bread together within the scarred walls of their roofless Guild Church. And as they knelt on the grey stones the sparrows flew here and there adding their chirpings to the human praise.

And now to the Women's Association of Toc H has fallen the proud honour of holding the first corporate service of worship within the new church, roofed and almost completed.

It was a strange and thrilling experience to see again the familiar outlines of the old All Hallows—its very shape and proportion still the same, but now so white and light as it shone through its guard of scaffolding. But the full tale of its beauty will have to be told later when the work is finished. The concrete floor had been laid but three days before. We owe a debt indeed to those who laboured so hard in clearing and cleaning to make all fit for our use. At the east end a temporary altar had been erected, hangings fitted to rough walls and carpets and low rails placed to form a sanctuary. Even the great jars and bowls of flowers had not been forgotten.

Within the church, for the Service of Witness, more than five hundred chairs had been put in place. On the Terrace outside another six hundred had been provided. And there were still not

Challenge and Response

A. B. S. MACFIE, Founder Pilot, gathers together this many-sided report on a great occasion and cements the contributions with her own commentary

enough for the hundreds more who came and had to stand or find what resting place they could on box or step or coping—over three thousand in all.

The red tunics of the bandsmen of the Welsh Guards made an inviting spot of colour and their music drew many of the usual multitude of sightseers across the road to look and listen for a while. (Perhaps it was a trifle inappropriate that later on, as the clergy were entering the church in solemn procession, the band should choose that moment to strike up with a lively dance tune! One had a fleeting remembrance, however, that it is chronicled in Holy Writ, how David had danced before the Lord.) There was a sparrow too, just as the service began, who flew across the church, high up in the clerestory, from side to side.

The sun shining, a breeze blowing, the Service of Witness on Tower Hill gathered thousands of women together, inside All Hallows and out (Photo: F.49049.)

Above. *"Prologue to Light", at the Royal Albert Hall, reaches a climax of revelation* (Photo: F.49000) *and,* right, *at Guildhall, the Family Gathering —and some of the charming hats that caused comment!* (Photo: F.48980).

There were B.B.C. men in the North Porch with their television apparatus, and people with cameras at every point of vantage. There were the St. John's Ambulance members with their eager ministry to those who found the stress of long standing too great a physical strain.

THE first part of the Service was conducted from the Church, but the Branch Padres, in their robes, were on the Terrace to give a lead outside. There was a two-way relay of the Service, so, at every point, all could feel they were an integral part of the whole. The reading of the story of the Good Samaritan came through with vital message and a solemnity that few could miss. So, too, the quiet time of prayer.

Then the focus was shifted, as, during the singing of a hymn, coming from the Church along the street, could be seen, led by the silver cross, the short procession of Bishop and clergy and their robed attendants. The address was given by the Right Reverend H. W. Baines, Bishop of Singapore. Very simply he took us back to the story of the Crucifixion and the part played by women in that last scene and in the days that followed. He stressed the point that the ministry of women is no less vital in the world today wherever there is suffering or sorrow or loneliness.

Tubby speaks at Guildhall, A.B.S.M. at one end of the table, Kathleen Owen at the other and the Founder Padre's aide next to him. (Photo: 48987.)

LATER, in the Royal Albert Hall, Tubby, during Home-going prayers, reverted to the same subject of the ministry of women. He read to us that grand passage from Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress", designed for the encouragement of Christiana, but which, applied to ourselves, makes us at once though proud, yet ashamed and very humble. **J.W.**

ORDINARY traffic on the Hill was completely stopped after the Service as worshippers poured from the Church and Terrace. The friendly helpfulness of the City Police was welcome and warm, and it was noticed that nearly the whole of the Force of City Policewomen was on duty (six out of seven to be exact)—their uniforms giving variety to the scene! So on to the Royal Albert Hall.

N. S. B. Clayton now takes up the tale—

A grisly rumour that Tubby would still be at sea instead of in the Royal Albert Hall festivating with us was scotched by himself in person outside 42 Trinity Square, greeting some of the hordes who came to look for lunch on Saturday. A kindly wind had brought the ship to port the day before.

On Saturday evening we all gathered round the Royal Albert Hall long before opening time, waiting for our respective doors. (The lampbearers, with their solid little boxes, had vanished in-

side to rehearse.) When we were let in, the Hall, with a hum of talk from some 4,000 of us, looked very gay, with a waving of crimson programmes. Miss Macfie welcomed us with the suggestion that everyone should "Be generous" with whatever they got from the Festival, and pass on something to those who had had to stay at home. She opened the programme by reading a message from the Queen Mother. (This was only the second Festival, out of the eleven, without our Patron in person.)

To all of you assembled at the Festival of Toc H Women's Association I send my greetings and my sincere congratulations on the achievements of the Association in the year that is past. I know well that the future will bring even greater demands for the services which you give so willingly and unselfishly, both in this country and through our Branches in all parts of the world.
I send to you all my very warm good wishes for the future.

ELIZABETH R.

Patron.

Other messages came from Lady Forster, Senior Vice-President, Yvonne de Rynck-Battheu, in Poperinge, and many other absent friends in this and in other countries.

We couldn't have a gathering of this kind without community singing, and one of my chief memories of a previous one is of singing the Doxology under vigorous encouragement from Ronald Calder, who was here again, with Arnold Greir to play the organ.

The Founder Pilot presents the Festival Organising Secretary with a pen in affectionate recognition of the stupendous job Jean Perry carried through triumphantly
(Photo: F.48983)

John Callf, the Administrator of Toc H, was introduced to the Women's Association by Kathleen Owen, the Chairman of C.E.C., and made us an impassioned appeal, illustrated by remarkable anecdotes, to travel ahead of the menfolk in "re-thinking Toc H", and show them the way.

AFTER the interval, which is always too short, the lights faded and the Prologue began with a voice evoking the source of Light. Against a tableau of the Holy Family, and a Christmas hymn, a red-cloaked young man stepped forward with drawn sword as the Challenger and summoned up pictures to remind us how the world needs witnesses to Light. When the scene dimmed the spotlight followed the Challenger down into the central aisle and across to meet the Lampbearers' Procession, which followed him back, across the width of the hall to the stage, where he stood motionless as the Lampbearers divided and took their seats on either side. After them came the Founder Padre and the Founder Pilot, preceded by Mr. Tisshaw from All Hallows, carrying the Patron's Lamp, which was set down on a little table. From this Lamp the tapers were lit, and carried to the waiting ranks. There were two twinkling squares in the gloom as Tubby took Light. Afterwards, family prayers and home-going.

Except for a brief programme note to the effect that Donald Munro, with the help of Anthony Copley and Margaret Leigh, produced it, and that a voluntary group sang the hymns, the mystery which has surrounded the Prologue—for non-performers—remains. Mr. Munro apparently fell from the blue in an hour of need, and did wonders with a mostly inexperienced cast in that enormous space. His actors not only moved effectively, but could keep miraculously still.

We had already been shot for television by the B.B.C. in the afternoon. In the evening a recording was made by George Day of Barnes Toc H, and perhaps that ceremony and the Guildhall gathering will be overheard by some of us who could not join in.

N.B.S.C.

SUNDAY morning again saw Tower Hill thronged with members attending services at All Hallows and visiting Crutched Friars House and "42". And again the pleasant T.V. team were on the spot as on Saturday with the happy result of a good showing in B.B.C. T.V. Newsreel on Monday evening. The main event on Sunday morning was the dedication by Tubby of the Settle in All Hallows in memory of Marjorie Thomas, early member of the Movement, and member of staff for many years. This followed an address by Padre Jim Davies, Administrative Padre of Toc H. Everyone afterwards dispersed for lunch and reassembled at 2 o'clock at Guildhall in the City of London. What took place during those three hours on this historic spot is described by some of our members from overseas. First, a member from Canada, Jane van der Valk, gives a general view of the events:

While we were waiting to enter Guildhall, members were only too happy to have the opportunity to renew old acquaintances. Once in, we disposed of ourselves, either sitting against the walls or standing in the main body of the chamber.

The gathering opened with an introduction of Toc H staff members—names to most but now presented in the flesh—the presentation done in clever rhymes. A word of gratitude was expressed to Winnie Adams for her successful coping with the tremendous lunch catering of the day before.

Miss Macfie asked that those present should carry the spirit of the Festival back to their Branches and try to make Toc H better known.

Barbara Vise, Editor of THE LOG, and the Brothers West, its printers and publishers, carried on a humorous conversation which shed light on the mysterious workings of their job. One piece of information I garnered was that the cover of "The Curious History of Toc H Women's Association" is washable—a perfect excuse for reading while washing up!

Miss Macfie paid a tribute to Mrs. Horne, for many years Honorary Treasurer. As a permanent form of remembrance among the suggestions shortly to be put to Branches, the one receiving the most ready response judging from the nodding of heads, was that for an endowment of a new "New June".

Breaks for tea, which was served in the Crypt, gave an opportunity to move around. Then those of us from abroad—Canada, Australia, South Africa, Argentina and Southern Rhodesia—were privileged to bring greetings from our respective countries.

"Tubby" arrived, looking very well after his recent illness. The main thing he had to ask us was to consider whether we would take on the job of bequeathing our eyes for the blind. As one who has been threatened with blindness, I am vividly conscious of what a splendid contribution this would be.

We closed with prayers, including the unaccompanied singing of two verses of "Abide with Me".

J.v.d.V.

NEXT, Mrs. Barker, from South Africa, gives her thoughts about the weekend:

Toc H is a series of contrasts; no Branch is complete without contrasts in its membership, in its programmes and in its jobs. The Festival was no exception. First there was the meeting of old friends in All Hallows and on the crowded Terrace on Tower Hill, and the excited buzz of talk against the pattern of music by the Band of the Welsh Guards—the hush before the service started and then the voices of the mighty congregation lifted in thanksgiving.

At the Royal Albert Hall in the evening there was much meeting and greeting of old friends and new. But it was in the moving words and scenes of the Prologue that one was gradually led to

the climax of the Festival. Never shall I forget that scene!

For each one of us in the family of Toc H the words of "Light" took on a deeper significance as we realized that we really were part of this great family and that we were all of us pledging ourselves anew to strive to live up to the high ideals of the great Movement.

The party in Guildhall was another big thrill. The admission ticket said "Family Gathering", and so it was, just a huge family gathering.

The thought came to me—as in the Royal Albert Hall—that if one believes in prayer, what a power for good in this troubled world are the prayers and the lives of so many, all pledged to the high ideals of Toc H and "striving to listen now and always for the voice of God", and it seemed to me that, even though we were pledged to "witness humbly", Jean Perry was right when she urged us all to go away and tell the world with pride of the great Movement to which we belonged. **J.B.**

AND Olive Hocking, from Australia, makes a contribution: Erica Trevelyan Lee's poem at Guildhall introducing members of the staff was a cheerful opening, and it was quite a thrill to hear greetings later on from Australia and to find there were members present from Canada, South Africa, Rhodesia and the Argentine. To me, coming from Australia, it *was* a family gathering, renewing contacts with friends I had made in England and meeting other members. I felt very much at home and realised once again that wherever one is one can never be lonely in Toc H.

O.H.

FINALLY, Kathleen Potts, a member from Uruguay, sums up the weekend in vivid phrases:

I have been asked for my impressions of the Festival. I am overwhelmed and profoundly moved by it all; the dignity and simple beauty of the Church and Service, the comfort and kindliness in the faces around me (but where are the young people?), the friendliness of all with whom I came in contact (I literally rubbed shoulders with Tubby as he came down the aisle!) Then the colourful splendour of the Royal Albert Hall, and seeing the thousands of women with whom I shared this experience. The happiness of seeing Mac step forward on the stage, the pleasure of hearing our Patron's message and Mac's own exhortation, the sense of unity with our sister branches everywhere from the greetings Miss Fowler read out (here I am covered in confusion for having forgotten to deliver a similar message from Uruguay with which I was entrusted).

I thought the Prologue was beautiful, heart-rending and inspiring.

Even if I am never to witness such a scene again I shall never forget the solemnity of the Ceremony of Light, the slow spreading

Picture of the Editor and the "West Brothers"—Mr. W. G. West has the microphone for the minute, afterwards Mr. Horace West took up the tale. (Photo: F.48986.)

of light along the rows, seemingly glowing brighter as the hall lights dimmed, and the truth of the words of the Ceremony from Laurence Binyon's poem: "Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn."

K.P.

* * *

HATS off to everyone who, in twenty-four hours, transformed All Hallows into a worthy place of worship. The concrete of the floor was wet the day before; builders' materials lay everywere. "Tissh" deserves the highest hat-raise, he worked like a navvy all Friday and Saturday morning and appeared immaculate and dignified at the Service in the afternoon, and as bearer of the Patron's Lamp in the Royal Albert Hall in the evening.

The Greeting to the Patron, which the audience at the Royal Albert Hall sent by acclamation, was delivered at Clarence House in the form of a charming little basket of flowers.

A weekend of this sort is only carried out successfully with the hard work and willing co-operation of a great number of helpers whose name is Anon. All earned our gratitude. We may perhaps be allowed to mention Miss Marianne Turner, our Chaplain, in connection with the compilation of the script for the Prologue and the selection of the Biblical passages; and Elsa Perrin, who so successfully arranged special outings for every day of the week following the Festival.

Sport and General Press Agency Ltd., 2 Gough Square, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4, took these photographs. If you want a copy of any one of them, an 8in. by 6in. print is 2s. 6d.; a 10in. by 8in., 3s. 6d. Write direct to the photographers and enclose 6d. to cover postage and packing.

GIVING INDEPENDENCE TO THE BLIND

ALAN CHARLES writes about an Association that has been working for 21 years and revolutionised the lives of many hundreds of blind people

ALL good causes, I feel, are dear to the hearts of Toc H workers; but no one can do more than available spare time permits . . . .

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association relies almost entirely outside its small headquarters staff and the staffs of its two training centres, on local voluntary organisers working from their homes. If there is a Guide Dogs organiser in your neighbourhood he or she would be delighted to hear from you. If not, the Association at its headquarters, 81 Piccadilly, London, W.1, would be delighted to know that you might be able to devote some of your time to establishing a local organisation. Headquarters can tell you if and where the local organiser exists.

The Association has been working for 21 years, starting on a waste piece of land in Wallasey. This land and an adjoining garage made a training centre and, against suspicion and some hostility, the Association grew to enjoy national esteem and an active Royal President in Princess Alexandra.

Well over 800 guide dogs have been supplied to blind owners whose lives have been completely revolutionised. A sense of independence, freedom of movement, opportunity to work and exercise, have been given to people who have had to rely on a tapping stick or the kindness of friends or relations to move around.

THE training centres at Leamington Spa and Exeter send out 100 dogs a year with their owners. Replacements are supplied for dogs grown too old for service and indeed for every fully trained dog, four have been brought in for training. The discipline and need for canine intelligence and affection are so great that a dog has to be a winner indeed to make the grade. So excellent is the record of the trained animals that only one fatal accident has occurred to a guide dog owner to date and police records lay the fault elsewhere than on the dog or his owner.

Princess Alexandra is President of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Photo: P.A.-Reuter

LOCAL organisers forward particulars of applicants to headquarters, keeping closely in touch with other societies for the blind, and time spent on the waiting is only determined by the length of the queue—never by location or financial affluence. It costs over £250 to train a dog and its owner together, when one takes into consideration the administrative overheads, but it is only expected that a blind person may contribute something if he can afford to.

Thanks to the Press, television and the newsreels, the Association's work is becoming increasingly well known, but the best publicity of all lies in the sight of a man or woman striding out happily with a guide dog. You may know blind persons in your district who could benefit by the help of a dog and you may also have ideas that help to bring in money to reduce the Association's waiting list. Many dog owners are happy to talk publicly about the work of the Association; last year guide dog owners gave 200 talks to schools, Rotary Clubs, Soroptomists, Women's Institutes, etc.

THE Association holds no national flag days; its revenue is derived for the most part from individual gifts, compacts, endowments or bequests, and from the organising of interesting social and sporting events and the running of film shows up and down the country. Fêtes, garden parties, raffles, gymkhanas, concerts, dances, golf, cricket and football matches, midnight matinées in cinemas are among the varied ways of raising funds—depending on the tastes of the organisers and the local public. A short film showing most effectively how a guide dog is introduced into a blind person's life can be made available from headquarters.

Research into voluntary organisations in Britain shows that a few scores of thousands of men and women shoulder the whole burden for the nation and one keen person is often connected with half a dozen societies. It is part of the strength of the comparatively small organisations like Toc H Women's Association or the Guide Dogs Association that no passengers are carried and people do not "belong" for the sake of a club or merely as a token for an annual subscription. Therefore, if this article does bring forth some voluntary assistance from Toc H Women's Association ranks, it will be all the more appreciated, bearing in mind that Toc H women have much to do.

WE WILL REMEMBER

E. Trailby—*Luton.* 16.3.27—March, 1956

Katherine Radcliffe—*Central General.* 18.1.29—7.5.56

Annie Bishop (Builder)—*Reading.* 18.1.51—23.4.56

Elsie Sykes—*A member and later a Builder, Farnham.* 1933—30.3.56

Marie Pullen—*Folkestone.* 13.3.33—9.5.56

Gertrude Cooper—*Sutton Coldfield.* 14.5.46—22.3.56

Margaret Cammack—*Barton-on-Humber.* 28.11.49—21.3.56

E. E. Monie—*Builder, formerly a member.* 18.10.28—April, 1956

POPERINGE

ELSA PERRIN reports on two sides of the question of what is what at Poperinge: one side, what has been given recently; the other side, what is still wanted

SINCE the last news of Poperinge appeared in THE LOG, the first of the new season's visitors have been welcomed at the Old House (Photograph shows a smiling group at Poperinge.)

Eastertide found a small working party in residence and the House has scarcely been empty since.

A generous friend has recently given new net curtains—very badly needed indeed—and the windows of the Old House will now be able to take their place with the best dressed in the Town.

Pillow cases are still needed—just over two dozen of them—and they cost 5/- each. They are the square kind which we are now able to buy from a wholesaler in Belgium, and any help towards the cost will be very much appreciated.

FOR any members and friends thinking of going to Poperinge this year there are plenty of opportunities during the next four months, and

The Poperinge Secretary,
Crutched Friars House,
London, E.C.3,

will be pleased to supply further information on request.

MICHAELMAS —

IT seems odd, perhaps, to be writing about Michaelmas and our Day of Intercession for Toc H on Whit Monday, with an unusual quiet immediately surrounding Crutched Friars House, but with the voices of the holiday-makers who throng Tower Hill sounding clearly across the roofs. And it is just two weeks to our Festival, too!

But there *is* a connection between the three — Michaelmas, Whitsun and the Festival. We prayed, all of us I hope, that the Festival might have the divine guidance and blessing, and we honestly tried to "give" it to God—that is, to fill every moment of Festival-time with his joyful spirit and loving fellowship, and to make the days the sort of days which would really help to glorify his Name and fulfil his Purpose.

Then we all went home. To carry on as before? No, emphatically NO. We went back (and please remember that I am writing before the event!) with a new sense of the reality of Toc H as a wide-spread family, with a fresh and inspired vision of its latent power, a firm determination for action concerning the tasks to which our eyes had been opened, and which as loyal members of Toc H we are going to tackle.

There is one very definite conviction which comes to me as I think during Whitsuntide of this return home and future. It is that if God is to "take possession of our hearts and reign where" He has "a right to reign" (as we have asked in the second part of our Festival Prayer) we shall need full measure of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and godliness and true awe of the Being of God—if we are to honour our resolutions.

SO here comes Michaelmas in answer to our need, with its sixteen-year-old association with our Movement and age-long association with the Christian's war against the forces of evil. It invites us all, individually and in groups, to bring Toc H of every part of the world in turn, members and jobs, leaders and whole-time staff, the countries in which they live and work, their special problems, opportunities and blessings, to the feet of our Lord, there to be filled with his Holy Spirit.

Make plans to keep the day well. Let every member choose some convenient time in which to make her own individual contribution. Read, between now and then, whatever can be found about Toc H in other countries. And need one stress that Toc H and world trends and events cannot possibly be dissociated?

WHITSUN — FESTIVAL

A. B. S. MACFIE ties three times of this year together, to knot more firmly the resolution of Toc H to its true purpose

There are no water-tight compartments in the world today, no such thing as isolation. Whether we want it or not our brother's problems in another hemisphere are ours too. We in Toc H must be wide awake to world problems, crises, discoveries and developments.

SIZE and speed seem to be keynotes of world themes in this century—ever-growing magnitude, ever-increasing speed. One trembles for the crashing chords of the finale. Small wonder that the ordinary man and woman, youth and maiden, are sometimes overwhelmed with a sense of helplessness and frustration! Toc H can help here. The frustration may be dispersed in the satisfaction of performing jobs of service which lie within one's grasp, at hand and waiting to be done. They are something which, if not done, make the world poorer; if fulfilled, the world is so much the richer. The helplessness will give way to confidence when we learn to accept the gift of that first Whitsunday—available in abundant measure now as then.

So there we are; the Festival gave us the urge to "be" and "do"; Whitsun shows us how; and Michaelmas brings us to the point!

SPECIAL ! **MICHAELMAS DAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, WILL BE KEPT BY TOC H WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE DAY OF INTERCESSION FOR TOC H. A SPECIAL LEAFLET FOR USE AT THIS TIME IS AVAILABLE FROM CRUTCHED FRIARS HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.3; PRICE 3d.**

CAMPAIGN

M. M. LEWIS describes constructive and far-reaching schemes for which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is campaigning to raise money on a big scale

THE word "refugee" implies unhappiness. No one *gladly* chooses to be a refugee. The last war thrust this homeless, rootless, condition of life on thousands of ordinary people from Eastern Europe.

Many fled from, or were driven out by, the fighting in their own towns and villages. When the war ceased they decided not to return home; because of fear of persecution they became refugees.

There are still 250,000 of these homeless, stateless people; 70,000 of them live in hideous wooden barracks in Germany, Austria, Italy and Greece.

They do not "belong" to these countries which regard them as foreign-speaking aliens. They have, of course, almost no personal possessions. They receive a small dole from the authorities of the country where they now are which is enough only for a meagre diet. Clothes and shoes must be provided by charitable organisations.

Thousands of them have waited for the last ten years hoping for an opportunity to emigrate to a country overseas where they could build up a new life and be real citizens once again. But emigration regulations are controlled by economic not humanitarian factors. Families with old parents, or a mentally defective child, anyone with a shadow on his lungs that *may* become T.B., are all rejected. The age limit is usually 45 years and very few countries will accept professional people.

So the barrack rooms—divided from each other by old blankets —have become the prisons of hope and imagination. Originally they were meant to be only temporary shelters where the refugees waited for the next stage of their journey to another continent.

THE U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees feels that something constructive should be done for these people who are homeless and stateless. They should not be allowed to rot in camps where life is unreal and without opportunities for normal living.

As the majority of them cannot emigrate, they must be helped to find work and a home in the countries where they now are. The High Commissioner has several schemes to enable them to do this.

Photo: United Nations

Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart took office on New Year's Day 1951, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He was born in the Netherlands in 1901; has been newspaper editor; Minister of Justice of the Dutch Government in exile; Senator. The 1954 Nobel Prize for Peace was awarded to his Office

Housing Construction near towns where there is employment. A refugee will be granted a loan to build himself a simple house and will be helped to find suitable employment so that he can repay the loan.

Land Settlement. Many farms in Austria and Greece are derelict. Refugee farming families will be granted loans to get the land into cultivation again.

Vocational Training to ensure that refugee children and refugee students can become skilled in a trade or finish their schooling—so that they can earn their living or be acceptable as emigrants in a new country.

The Old and the Sick. 15 per cent. of the refugees are old and alone or very sick. They cannot care for themselves. They need a place in an Old People's Home or care in a sanatorium.

For all these sensible worthwhile schemes the High Commissioner needs money. He also needs money for small loans of £20 or £30 to set a refugee up as a barber, or a waiter or a shoe maker.

But the money he needs for his 1955/56 programme has not been forthcoming. Instead of being able to help 20,000 people, he can help only 9,000.

TO help raise money for the U.N. High Commissioner's schemes, the United Nations Association of Great Britain is organising a campaign for refugees *this year*. U.N.A. feels that the refugees have waited long enough and that the need is urgent and vital.

To help meet this need the United Nations Association is running a campaign during 1956 to reach a climax on October 24th, United Nations Day. The main part of the funds will be used for projects sponsored by the U.N. High Commissioner and carried out by such voluntary organisations as the World Council of Churches and the National Catholic Welfare Conference. A percentage will go to the British Council for Aid to Refugees and to other voluntary agencies for urgent relief work among the Arab refugees from Palestine.

(There is need for helpers in the nation-wide house-to-house collection being organised in October. Please contact the local Branch of U.N.A.)

MRS. PHYLLIS JACKSON COLE

TWO excerpts from tributes paid to her at the Memorial Service arranged by Toc H Hastings Women's Branch:—

"I am sure that she did not fully appreciate her capabilities. More than once I heard her remark when asked to fill an office in Toc H, 'do you think I could do it properly?' Yet, having been persuaded that she could, she would carry out her duties with a natural charm and quiet dignity."—Contributed by Mrs. Peckham on behalf of the District (East Sussex).

* * *

"Phyllis was always the same and to every new member who joined our Branch as well as to the old members she gave her hand in friendship. She was so utterly dependable. Whatever she did in Toc H . . . . Phyllis did a grand job and she had such a great sense of humour."—Chairman of Toc H Hastings Women's Branch.

* * *

LIVELY PEOPLE

Look at the inside back cover of the LOG and you will see that both "Peth" and "Taffy" have joined the staff; here is what they say about themselves and as an editorial note let us add that both are ready talkers and both charming smilers. . . .

M. E. DAVIES ("Taffy"): First contact with Toc H and Toc H L.W.H. was in the original Mark VI at Birmingham. Held office in Area, District, Branch, and as Central Councillor. Toc H Women's Association Representative on W.V.S. (Civil Defence) Advisory Council for Wales; Local Committee dealing with the Welfare of Old People living in their own homes; House Committee of Church of England Children's Society Home. Worked for a number of years as Local Government Official mainly concerned with the welfare of tenants removed to new housing estates from slum clearance areas and other unsatisfactory accommodation. Interests: People, reading, foreign travel, music.

AUDREY DAVIDSON ("Peth"): Mine has been a somewhat chequered career. I first met Toc H in Wallasey in 1930 when I was a young and inexperienced school teacher. My interest became much more centred in Toc H than in teaching and in 1937 I joined the staff, and until my marriage in 1948 I was North West Regional Secretary.

Here is M. E. Davies — looking more serious than when the Editor last saw her!

This is Audrey Davidson—and her daughter Andrea "whose attendance at Toc H meetings is already quite high".

The Region varied in size over the years and I was privileged to visit most parts of Britain during my years on the Staff.

In 1948 I married and left the Staff, although I continued to do voluntary work for Toc H Women's Association, and was elected, in 1951, to the Central Executive Committee.

In 1950 our daughter Andrea Clare was born and my husband and I looked forward to a happy family life, but this was not to be, and in 1952 Andrea and I were left to mourn him. I wish to put on record my thanks for all the love and prayer that upheld me in those difficult days.

I now live with Andrea in a cottage in the lovely market town of Kirkby Lonsdale in South Westmorland and have just completed five years on the C.E.C., and I am indeed delighted to return part-time to the Staff to be with old and new colleagues. I am much "longer in the tooth" than in the days when I was North West Regional Secretary, but although older in years, I am kept young in heart by my small daughter whose attendance at Toc H meetings is already quite high.

NOTES AND NEWS

SCHOOLS AFFILIATION SCHEME: Celia Powell reports: "Progress is slow so far. At one school in the North-East, a Councillor has spoken to senior girls about Toc H and the invitation to do this will probably be repeated next year. A number of District Teams are thinking how to develop contacts with schools in their area. I shall be glad to try to follow up any contacts given me."

"PROBATIONERS AND THE DUTIES OF SPONSORS", writes Joan Chamberlain, formed the subject of the Training Day held by Kingston District on Sunday, 15th April, 1956, at St. George's Hall, Wimbledon, and attended by nearly 40 people. A very helpful and interesting talk, given during the morning by Mrs. Jane Twinch, was followed, after a sandwich and soup lunch, by a Brains Trust, formed from members in the District, and Group Discussion. The afternoon was brought to a close with a short Home-going Service.

A particular feature of the day was the very welcome presence of four members from the R.H.H.I. Branch, who came by electric chair or were brought by a member of Toc H in his car.

The training met a definite need, the responsibilities of Sponsorship being not infrequently underestimated or the duties carried out in a desultory manner due to the Sponsor being herself unprepared or unsure of the way to proceed.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT—HILLSBOROUGH BRANCH: Anne Taylor writes: On March 27th, approximately fifty guests, including members of other Sheffield branches, and former members of our own, helped us to celebrate our 21st birthday. After our Chairman had welcomed the guests, Mrs. Bunting, a founder-member, who had come specially from Birmingham for the occasion, took Light, after which our Secretary read greetings from various old friends who were unable to be present. There were hilarious party games and a brief sketch. A fine cake, made by a member, and iced by her friend—a non-member, but a good friend of our Branch—was cut by Miss Winnie Morton of West Sheffield, who had helped to found Hillsborough Branch, and the good wishes she expressed for our future were echoed by the District Chairman and Secretary. We ended our very pleasant party with a short service of Re-Dedication, taken by our Pilot.

THE LOG: If anyone has a spare copy of the March/April Log it would be appreciated if it could be sent to Miss Fowler, Crutched Friars House, London, E.C.3.

KEEP US UP-TO-DATE WITH NEWS FROM NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST . . .

NEW FREE LEAFLETS and PRAYER CARDS (price 1d.) are now available.

SUMMER SCHOOL—21st/28th JULY: We regret that the Rev. D. A. V. Worth will not be with us at Roydon, but we are fortunate in having in his place the Rev. K. G. Bloxham as our Chaplain and Leader. There are still vacancies and applications should be made as soon as possible to Crutched Friars House, London, E.C.3. Don't miss this opportunity to combine study and relaxation in such a pleasant part of Yorkshire. The cost is £6 10s. for the week.

WINANT VOLUNTEERS: This year's team of Volunteers from the United States arrived on 26th June and will be working in the East End and South London clubs and parishes until the middle of August.

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Jean Corstin and Barbara Green have been co-opted for the year 1956-57. Meetings will be held as follows: 28th July, 29th September, 24th November, 26th January, and 23rd February. Area Councils are asked to avoid as far as possible these dates so that C.E.C. Readers of Minutes may occasionally have the opportunity to visit the Area Council meeting.

NEW ZEALAND: We welcome to the Staff in New Zealand, Miss Margaret McDougall of Christchurch, who hopes to concentrate on expansion work.

NORTH WEST AREA WEEK-END, 3rd/4th MARCH, 1956: Report from this weekend: The first weekend in March is now eagerly looked forward to by members of the Branches in the North West Area, as their Annual Training Weekend. Our fourth weekend was held at the Methodist Guest House, Bispham, with about 80 members attending.

The weekend got off to a good start with an inspiring and helpful talk on "Perseverance", by Rev. Fordham, Padre of the Preston Branch W.A.

Later in the evening we had a most successful social time, competently arranged and M.C.'d by Mrs. M. Baker, Chairman of the Area Council, who had asked all districts to contribute some form of entertainment, to which they had all responded, and a most enjoyable evening resulted.

Several members were up bright and early on the Sunday morning to go to the early service at the Parish Church.

On Sunday morning our speaker was Miss Elsa Perrin from H.Q., whose subject was "The Growth and Development of Toc H in the World Today". Miss Perrin gave us much food for thought on how to set about spreading Toc H and starting new branches in new districts. In the afternoon she set questions for group discussions bearing on this problem.

VANCOUVER Branch, writes Elisabeth Worth from news she has had from overseas, are making a special study of racial relationships. Much of the information has been obtained from various publications. In one case they have had as guest speaker, the Anglican priest of the Good Shepherd Mission to the Chinese.

Vancouver has quite a large Chinese population. Although a number of Chinese people live in the various suburban districts of the city, the bulk of them live in the "down town" section of Pender Street, known as "Chinatown". Though not as large or picturesque as San Francisco's Chinatown, it has many noticeable characteristics. Many of the leading restaurants provide exotic food and settings, and a party in Chinatown is never complete without a visit to one of these "Chop Suey" houses.

The Reverend Andrew Lam told the branch that for more than sixty years there had been an Anglican Mission in this district; he himself had been the Priest-in-Charge for the last fourteen years. Most early contacts with the Chinese had been through language classes as most of them are anxious to speak English. Even today there are large numbers of newcomers; they come in almost daily from Hong Kong, where many have been refugees. For these new Chinese there are night classes at the Mission, and in this indirect way, many are first introduced to the Faith.

There is a large Kindergarten at the Mission, as well as extra activities for boys and girls. In this manner, some parents in non-Christian homes were contacted through their children. A fine choir leads the singing in church on Sunday, taught by well-known local musicians. Services are conducted in Chinese, with one Evensong in English each month.

WARDEN MANOR HOSTEL is an old country house where you can enjoy a holiday if you want to feel again the tang of salt sea air on your lips. It is at Warden Point, Eastchurch, Kent, and open to Toc H members and friends, £5 12s. 6d. each a week; and that fee includes all charges for games. Further details from Vic Martin; and the telephone, if you are in a hurry to get your holiday settled, is Eastchurch 238.

GOOD WISHES to Frances Jennings and her fiancé, Mr. John William Fowler, marrying in September in Peterborough.

COMING-OF-AGE PARTY: Margaret Brock sends the news of Norwich Women's Branch's 21st birthday celebrations: When we began in Norwich we were alone in Norfolk. At the party there were representatives of 12 Norfolk and 3 North Suffolk Branches, many of which we helped to take their first steps in Toc H. The celebrations began with a service held at St. Stephen's Church and taken by our own Padre, Canon Bracecamp, assisted by Canon Sinnett Davies. The Bishop of Thetford gave the address. Miss Larnder led the refreshments committee; Miss M. Jones

took the Ceremony of Light; Miss Spelman, one of the original members, gave some of her reminiscences. Mrs. Gorton, our Area Secretary, made Toc H seem bigger and the world smaller, in a brief look at the wider work of Toc H women—and Miss Burgess, our first Branch Chairman, recalled the jobs that had been done in 21 years. There were thanks all round from Miss Winter and an unexpected vote from an old member touched at having been invited.

JIG-SAW: S.P.G. (Medical Missions): The Jig-Saw Puzzle Club (which, since 1937, has brought in about £300 for the Society), writes Hilda J. Emson, formerly carried on by Miss Tew of Alton, has been transferred to Miss Emson, c/o The Cottage, Radwinter, Saffron Walden, Essex. New members welcomed; many good puzzles; members pay 6d. each puzzle borrowed, and postage both ways.

WANTED—SOMEWHERE TO LIVE! There is increasing difficulty in finding suitable lodgings for the many thousands of overseas students at present in, and coming to, this country. Toc H members already offer some hospitality and also holidays for overseas nurses. Can we go still further and make a definite effort to find people willing to accept students as lodgers? In London they will be studying either at the University or at various other Colleges. Any offer of accommodation, within close reach of such places of study, or in the near suburbs, will be greatly welcome. The students pay normal rates for lodgings and generally prefer single rooms. Anyone willing to offer accommodation should get in touch with the British Council, Student Welfare Department, 3 Hanover Street, London, W.1. Lodgings are also needed in a number of towns outside London and anyone interested should get in touch with the local British Council Office direct, or through the above address.

OLD HOUSE REUNION: Visitors to Talbot House, Poperinge, are invited to Talbot House, 42 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3, on Saturday, 10th November, 1956, from 3 to 8 p.m. There will be a Buffet Tea and opportunity to meet old friends, exchange photographs, view films, and so on. Members of the Old House Committee will be there to extend a warm welcome. Cost inclusive of tea will be 5/- each person. Further details available from The Old House Reunion Secretary, Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

NEW JOBS: Helen Benbow has taken over Beatrice Elms' work as Secretary of the Birthday Gift Scheme. Letters should be addressed to her, c/o Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

Mrs. Constance Prideaux-Brune, Thriftwood, Limpsfield, Surrey, has succeeded Mrs. Horne as Secretary of the Central Branch. She has been a member since early days, and her husband is a Foundation Member of Toc H.

TOC H in the WELFARE STATE

W. M. FEARNSIDE spoke on this subject at the Central Council meeting in the Spring; her stirring talk cannot be given in full in this Festival number, but is too important to wait for more space in a later one. Here are salient excerpts that carry a complete message in themselves . . . .

IN offering to open discussion on this subject, I thought with what temerity I had undertaken the task. A vast problem it is; one can but speak from one's heart and conviction: if the problem is any clearer to us afterwards, we may have helped to contribute even in a small way to its solution, and that is the vital point. Perhaps experience in housing, hospital and school prompted me. One often comes close to tragedy in all these spheres.

We who are here start as members of a Christian movement. From all parts of Britain this morning, we met for Communion together at All Hallows. At midday we shall return there. Why? Because without the inspiration of the Upper Room, without personal and communal consecration, without the touch of the hem of His garment, we shall labour, availing little. Toc H was born from such communion, and in last year's report I read that your Speaker urged the need, more than ever great today, for Christian witness.

WHAT of the Welfare State? We are aware that state provision against adversity and sickness has appeared to remove the need for some forms of service. Yet how much to do remains. Is life now renewed and perfect universally? Or is there still the child in trouble, the problem family, the broken home? Are there still the lonely and embittered who feel that life has no niche for them? Are there urgent national matters—capital punishment, gambling, labour problems, demanding intelligent study, balanced opinion, carefully reached? Toc H is the Movement for those who are willing to think.

Recently, branches in Australia chose as study theme, "Democracy in Search of God". What else in reality is ours—or any other? All over the world communities strive to grapple with problems whose gravity grows. Toc H unobtrusively, believing that science alone is no cure, is at grips with them, as the theme of the Vigil shows all over the world. Surely the Lamp shines bravely; but it can be even brighter, linked with other bodies;

religious, educational, municipal, national, international, making its voice heard, true to the light that guides it.

IT was at Poperinge that the Vision was first vouchsafed. In post-war years the Toc H idea grew deeper and more full, as it touched other minds. For one cannot kill an *Idea*. Even driven underground, it derives more energy and power, and, given its full impact on the mind and spirit of multitudes, what may it not accomplish? Last week I was among politicians—on occasion a peculiar genus. One lightheartedly stated that Wilberforce really had little to do with the freeing of the slaves. Economic conditions alone had achieved it! What next? Would he add that Elizabeth Fry had no part in prison reform? That Florence Nightingale had none in the re-creation of opinion and the accomplishment of sweeping changes in medical, sanitary and nursing spheres? That Jean Jacques Rousseau did not herald the French Revolution?

We, too, have an idea. We, perhaps alone in this, link hands with those of every political opinion, every section of the Protestant Church, every race; for "in Christ there is neither bond nor free, neither Greek nor Jew", we are all one. As the Master did, we see His child in every man, seek people as people, each of infinite value for His sake. We do it as individuals, or as groups.

So Toc H in the Welfare State can be His instrument. Let us not forget the source of our inspiration and faith. It is that of the Old House, of the Upper Room. It is Love, finding expression in study, then in service, abroad, at home. With love all things are possible, and there are yet miracles.

TOC H "BELRA" GARDEN PARTY this year is again being held in the grounds of The Holme, Bedford College, Regents Park, N.W.1, thanks to the kindness of the Governors of the College. It is on 21st July and will be opened by Humphrey Lyttleton. Already (in May) 31 branches in the London area have pledged their support and that is apart from the support the Toc H Women's Association will be giving. "If", also writes Mr. A. L. Knox, of 15 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, "anyone else wants to know how they can join the venture, I shall be only too pleased to let them know."

LETTERS . . .

Dear Editor,

I do not know who I have to thank for sending me the May-June, 1956, copy of THE LOG and the 1955 Annual Report and Accounts, both of which publications I have read with the greatest of interest, but whoever it was—thank you very much indeed.

Shortly, I hope to have an opportunity of visiting Crutched Friars House—in fact I hope I have many opportunities of doing so, as there is so much I want to see and hear.

DAPHNE LAIDLER
(Northampton)

Dear Editor,

At a meeting held recently at the Guide Hut, Sawbridgeworth, the newly-formed Women's Association became a Branch. Mrs. G. Fuller, Hon. District Deputy, bestowed the Rush Light on the Branch and conducted the ceremony of initiation for eight members. Members of the Sawbridgeworth Men's Branch were present and also women members from Cambridge, Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford. Miss Celia Powell from Toc H Headquarters, gave a talk on her work for the Movement. During the evening Mr. E. E. Wood, Chairman of the Men's Branch, presented the Women's Association with a silver table bell suitably inscribed from the men.

In May we hope to initiate another eight members and also to hold our first birthday party.

EDITH BRYAN (Chairman)
Sawbridgeworth Toc H Women's Association.

Dear Editor,

May I please, through the pages of THE LOG, spread the news about the "Golden Needle League"? We, of Erith and Barnehurst, were introduced to it by our neighbouring Branch of Dartford, and feel that it is a worthwhile piece of service, with a personal touch.

There is no end to the possibilities of increasing interest in this way of helping such a worthy Society. If Toc H Women's branches would take the idea under their wing, and if each individual member would commend it to friends, the snowball would surely grow to a truly valuable size!

The Vicar of my own Parish Church (our Padre) kindly inserted an article in his Parish Magazine on one occasion. Other members of Toc H would no doubt meet with the same co-operation from their clergy, as a means of publicising the "G.N.L.". On application to the Children's Society, a leaflet on the subject is obtainable.

BERTHA L. WILKIE
Branch Pilot (Erith and Barnehurst Branch)

When you write to the LOG, cut out this coupon and stick it on the left-hand top corner of your envelope

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Hope you will consider my letter as news for the Log.

I am a raw one-year-old member and our branch as a whole seems to be busy, each member having some of her own special jobs and also have taken part in widespread jobs such as door to door collecting in aid of a school for spastic children and Alexandra Rose Day.

We have special efforts to make money which is spent on food parcels which we distribute to the lonely aged people of the town (they are greatly appreciated).

We are now busy making scrap-books which will later be distributed to hospitals and homes for older people in the district.

We have speakers on all subjects which I find most educational and interesting.

I feel I have benefited by being a member of this branch and sincerely hope I have put something into Toc H.

This branch celebrates its fourth birthday in March.

GLADYS POSTLEWAITE.
(Atherton)

Dear Editor,

Recently I was asked to talk at a Branch on *Finance*. As some of you already know, this is becoming a sore point with many members.

Did they want (a) finance in a general way, or merely (b) the duties of Treasurer from the Branch upwards? A little of (a) and (b) was what was wanted, and I therefore began with the Branch Treasurer and Accounts and in easy stages finally explained the recently-published Annual Accounts for 1955.

They plied me with questions and gave constructive criticisms.

The most staggering comment came when I pointed out the deficit in our accounts for 1955—£1,619:

"Why haven't we been told the position before?" And here are a few more of their questions:

"What is the present membership of the Women's Association, and how could this deficit be wiped out—how much extra would we each have to contribute? Why isn't the Annual Subscription raised to help cover the deficit? Why don't Headquarters give us a lead, and tell us what is expected of us as regards 'personal assessment'? And why don't they give a guide as to the minimum

each member should endeavour to give? Why are we expected to have an annual Special Effort to help funds—this is *our* responsibility, and we don't like asking the public to finance *our* show!

"Is this deficit cumulative, or how is it met each year? Could Regional Staff be assisted by more voluntary workers, to overcome the staff problem and the expenditure? Why don't they appeal more for funds to keep the Old House in better condition? There must be some members who cannot afford the expense of a weekend, but who would very much like to give a donation to such a fund."

This was *one* Branch which was on its toes and definitely did not need a "pep" talk, but I am wondering, how does the rest of the membership feel about this all-important problem?

The total expenditure from Central Funds for 1955 was £10,028—divide this by the membership of approximately 8,741, and the result you get is about £1 3s., which means that some members must give more than that each year to help those who cannot afford so much, and this is the amount needed *after* all Branch, District and Area expenses have been paid.

What is every reader's personal reaction to this suggestion that Headquarters should give a guide on self-assessment, and increase the annual subscription?

It is an individual problem, but it depends on how much Toc H means to the membership, and as each member reacts so is the solvency of this organisation decided. **A TREASURER**

Dear Editor,

This is in the nature of an appeal from one member of the W.A. to others.

I beg of Toc H members to regard their membership as a very precious thing. So often one hears of members resigning or slackening off their attendances for trivial reasons. It is only since through illness, I have been unable to attend the meetings of my Branch that I have realised to the full what Toc H means to me: the fellowship, the understanding, the spiritual uplift, which no other organisation, outside the Church, can give.

I say, "hang on, have tolerance, disown discouragement, and help to make Toc H what our Founder intended it to be."

V. I. WILKINS
(Chichester)

Dear Editor,

Referring to Patricia Ingham's letter, in which she asked for views about mixed branches, I would like to say that in the North London Area we have started in Whetstone a mixed branch, the object of which was primarily to attract youth.

At the preliminary meeting we understood from several aspiring members that they wished to join Toc H as it fulfilled a need—that of Service.

Although this branch is now very much in its infancy it promises to be enthusiastic. I do not see, really, why a mixed branch should spend any more time on business.

We have great hopes of this mixed branch of young people. It will certainly be interesting to see how this venture develops and also to see how snags in the different constitutions can be overcome.

JOYCE BESTELINK

Dear Editor,

I must say I enjoyed every minute of the Festival, which was a credit to all who organised such an affair. It is my first visit to a Festival but I hope it will not be my last. . . . I am proud to be a member of such an organisation and I will endeavour, God willing, to serve Toc H better than ever.

ELIZABETH HODGSON
(Stranton Branch)

THE LOG

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